GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3637
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
USE OF OXYTOSIN IN VEGETABLES
SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4228 dated August 21, 2000 regarding use of oxytosin in vegetables and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon, till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Govt. is not aware of reported use of Oxytocin in Vegetables or in agriculture and horticulture.

There is no reported adverse impact of this chemical on human health. Oxytocin is generally used to induce uterine contractions in pregnant women and laboratory animals, rabbits, dogs and cattle for easy delivery. Oxytocin, when injected into the animal, gets rapidly metabolised in liver and kidney to undetectable levels. The half life of the Oxytocin varies from 3 to 12 minutes. In humans, Oxytocin is not absorbed when taken orally as it is converted into aminoacids by peptide digesting enzymes in the Gastro-intestinal tract. The chances that it might be filtered in milk or contaminate meat are also non-existent.

(c) To prevent any misuse of this drug, the following measures have been initiated:

(1) Oxytocin has been notified as a Schedule-H drug and can be sold only against the prescription of the registered medical/veterinary practitioner.

(2) This Ministry proposes to make it mandatory to market Oxytocin injection in single unit blister pack only. A notification indicating the intention to amend Rule 105 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules has been issued to this affect on 1.12.2000.

(3) Instructions have also been issued to all State Drug Controllers to regulate and monitor manufacture and distribution of Oxytocin.

(4) Deptt. of Animal Husbandry have also issued instructions to all the Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services to educate the farmers in the States about appropriate use of drug. They have also been advised to approach the State Drug Controllers for regulating the use of drug by distributors and retailers.